

REMARKS

Claims 28-42 are now pending. Claims 1-27 have been cancelled, and claims 28-42 have been added.

The Examiner has objected to the specification because "there is no specific reference to the prior art mentioned in [0012] on page 4," which is a brief description of Figure 1c. Applicant does not fully understand the Examiner's concern. Applicant notes, however, that in paragraph [0022] of page 6 of the specification, there is a specific reference to Figure 1c: "Figure 1c shows this mapping in the translation table 124."

Claims 1-3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Srisuresh. Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Boyle. Claims 17-21 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sridhar. Claims 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srisuresh in view of Boyle. Claims 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sridhar in view of Boyle.

Since applicant has cancelled claims 1-27, these rejections no longer apply. Applicant would, however, like to present remarks related to claims 28-42.

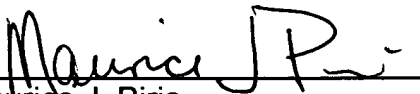
Independent claims 28 and 38 are directed to enabling a remote device to initiate a traffic flow with a local device. The local device sends an initial message which may or may not be received by the remote device. If the local device is behind a network address translator, the network address translator intercepts the initial message and establishes an address translation between the remote device and the local device. If the local device is not behind a network address translator, the initial message is forwarded to the remote device. The local device can then receive messages initiated by the remote device because the initial message intercepted by the network address translator established an address translation between the remote device and the local device.

The Examiner relies upon Boyle as disclosing sending a null message to a network address translator. Applicant is submitting a declaration and 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to establish invention by applicant prior to the filing date—July 18, 2001—of Boyle. From before July 18, 2001 until the filing date of September 18, 2001 of this application, the inventor reviewed several drafts of the specification and drawings for this application. The Appendix demonstrates redacted communications between the inventor and patent counsel during this period. Thus, the inventor was diligent from prior to July 18, 2001 until the filing of this application on September 18, 2001 when constructive reduction to practice occurred.

Based on the above amendments and remarks applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

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Respectfully submitted,

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